

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing software upgrades to a vehicle comprising:
a vehicle;
5 a network transmission medium installed in said vehicle;
a first network device coupled to said network transmission medium, wherein said first
network device is configured to accept software upgrades; and
a second network device coupled to said network transmission medium, wherein said
second network device is configured to receive said software upgrade from a
10 source external to said network and wherein said second network device is further
configured to convey said software upgrade to said first network device.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second network devices is
configured to transmit data to devices having corresponding IP addresses and to receive data
15 having an IP address corresponding to said each of said first and second network devices.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said first and second network devices are each configured
to transmit and receive data using object terminology.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said first and second network devices are each configured
to transmit and receive data according to a predetermined network protocol.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said predetermined network protocol is defined by IEEE
standard 802.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said second network device comprises a wireless
communications device.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said wireless communications device comprises one of
30 the group consisting of: a CDPD modem; a wireless ethernet transceiver, a wireless modem and
a cellular phone.

8. A method for providing software upgrades to a vehicle comprising:
providing a vehicle having a network installed therein wherein said network comprises a
transmission medium, a first network device connected to said transmission
medium and a second network device connected to said transmission medium;
delivering upgrade data to said first network device; and
delivering said upgrade data from said first network device via said transmission medium
to said second network device.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein delivering said upgrade data from said first network
device via said transmission medium to said second network device comprises: forming a packet
containing said upgrade data; addressing said packet to an IP address corresponding to said
second network device; and conveying said packet to said transmission medium.

10. The system of claim 9 further comprising said second device identifying said packet on
said transmission medium and retrieving said packet from said transmission medium

11. The system of claim 8 wherein said first network device comprises a wireless
communication device and wherein the method further comprises transmitting said upgrade data
from an external wireless device to said first network device

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said first network device comprises a wireless ethernet
device

13. The system of claim 8 further comprising:
retrieving information from said vehicle regarding said second network device;
determining whether said second network device requires said upgrade data; and
transmitting said upgrade data to said first network device in response to determining that
said second network device requires said upgrade data.

14. A system for providing software upgrades to a vehicle comprising:
a network transmission medium configured to be installed in the vehicle;
a first network device coupled to said network transmission medium, wherein said first
network device is configured to accept the software upgrades; and
5 a second network device coupled to said network transmission medium, wherein said
second network device is configured to receive said software upgrade from a
source external to said network and wherein said second network device is further
configured to convey said software upgrade to said first network device.

10 15. The system of claim 14 wherein each of said first and second network devices is
configured to transmit data to devices having corresponding IP addresses and to receive data
having an IP address corresponding to said each of said first and second network devices.

15 16. The system of claim 14 wherein said first and second network devices are each
configured to transmit and receive data using object terminology.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein said first and second network devices are each
configured to transmit and receive data according to a predetermined network protocol.

20 18. The system of claim 17 wherein said predetermined network protocol is defined by IEEE
standard 802.

19. The system of claim 14 wherein said second network device comprises a wireless
communications device.

25 20. The system of claim 19 wherein said wireless communications device comprises one of
the group consisting of: a CDPD modem; a wireless ethernet transceiver, a wireless modem and
a cellular phone.